

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PC-01 SS-15 L-03 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 /054 W

-----120166 281913Z /43

O R 281645Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9001

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1588

DEPT ALSO PASS PEACE CORPS IMMEDIATE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, CT, US

SUBJ: ARREST OF PCV JAMES MAHER

REF: BANGUI 1581 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED IN CHARGE AFTERNOON JULY 28 TO REQUEST THAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER JIM MAHER, WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED BY THE CAE GOVERNMENT SINCE JULY 25, LEAVE THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHARGE REQUESTED REASON. FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT CHARGE SHOULD KNOW AS WELL AS HE, INDICATING THAT EXPULSION PROMPTED BY WHATEVER QUESTIONS MAHER ASKED TO GUARDS AT EMPEROR'S PALACE AT OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN JULY 25. CHARGE NOTED THAT THIS WAS STRONG ACTION BUT USG WOULD COMPLY IF IT WAS NECESSARY. HE ASKED WHAT THIS MEANT FOR FUTURE OF THE PEACE CORPS IN CAE, NOTING THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 70 VOLUNTEERS IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING 30 SOME WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED, WITH A SMILE, THAT THE EXPULSION HAD NO SIGNIFICANCE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PEACE CORLS PROGRAM IN THE CAE; THERE WERE A GREAT NUMBER OF JOINT PROJECTS WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TO CONTINUE.

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2. MAHER WILL LEAVE ON UT772 AT 1320 JULY 29, ARRIVING PARIS 2220, WITH ONWARD CONNECTION ON TW891 LEAVING PARIS 1245 JULY 30 ARRIVING WASHINGTON 1530. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT PCD SEYLER. REQUEST PC/W MEET AND MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR MAHER AND SEYLER.

3. COMMENT: WE WILL NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO MAHER UNTIL WE PICK HIM UP AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, SO WE STILL DO NOT KNOW EITHER THE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO HIS ARREST OR HOW HE WAS TREATED, OTHER THAN THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING HIS HAIR CUT OFF. EMPEROR HIMSELF UNDOUBTEDLY MADE THE EXPULSION DECISION. THE HOUSE BEFORE WHICH MAHER STOPPED HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S WIVES, AND THE EXPULSION ORDER MAY BE THE EMPEROR'S REACTION TO WHAT HE CONSIDERED PRYING INTO HIS PRIVATE LIFE, SOMETHING TO WHICH HE IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. HE MAY WISH THE EXPULSION TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGUI01588  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770271-0004  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 BANGUI 1581  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1727757  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARREST OF PCV JAMES MAHER  
**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, CARR, CT, US, (MAHER, JIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009